

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing the 18th National Minority Cancer Awareness Week.

We continue to make great strides in the fight against cancer. As a member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, I was pleased to hear from Dr. Elias Zerhouni, the director of the National Institutes of Health, just this morning. Dr. Zerhouni and Dr. Von Eschenbach, the director of the National Cancer Institute, spoke about the enormous strides that are being made in cancer research. There are now 10 million cancer survivors in the U.S. compared to 3 million in 1971. Death rates from the four most common cancers—lung, breast, prostate, and colorectal—continue to decline.

However, cancer continues to take a significant toll in the U.S. This year, 1.3 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer and, unfortunately, 556,000 are expected to die. Cancer remains the number two killer in the U.S.

I am particularly dismayed to see that the benefits of the research—the breakthroughs that have been made in terms of prevention and treatment—are not being enjoyed by all communities equally. Sadly, minority communities continue to bear a disproportionate burden of cancer cases.

We know the consequences of such health disparities, and we know that many of them stem from inadequate access by our minority communities to preventative services and early detection. Minorities also have a lower survival rate. Clearly, these will continue to be significant issues that need to be addressed by the National Cancer Institute and the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities.

I was very pleased to visit this week with constituents from my congressional district representing One Voice Against Cancer. My constituents included Ivonne DeCorra from Huntington Park and Julie Fleschman from Los Angeles, who is also the executive director of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. Another visitor, Michele Perry, knows the heartache of cancer first hand. Having lost her mother to cancer at a young age, Michele was herself diagnosed in 2000. Her personal trials however, have driven her to become an advocate for cancer research and patient programs so that she, her daughter, and countless others will never have to feel the heartache of cancer again.

It is that type of dedication and commitment—stemming from sometimes tragic personal experiences—that have made One Voice Against Cancer an effective voice in advocating for adequate funding for cancer research, prevention and treatment. I and my colleagues heard their message this week, and despite difficult budget circumstances, we will continue the fight against cancer.

The future health of America as a whole will be influenced substantially by our success in improving the health of minority and other

medically underserved populations. By increasing awareness of programs and services in minority communities, we can provide an opportunity to engage these communities in the fight against cancer.

That was the message of One Voice Against Cancer this week, incorporated in their theme—"Cancer is a Burden. Finding Help Shouldn't Be." And that is the message that my colleagues and I must act on as we recognize National Minority Cancer Awareness Week and continue the fight against cancer.

PRESERVING ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to transfer ownership of environmentally sensitive land at the former Fort Sheridan, Illinois, to a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve the environment. This bill will preserve some of the last remaining pristine wilderness along the lakeshore north of Chicago for generations to come.

The bluffs, ravines, and beachfront at Fort Sheridan are a treasure that deserves to be protected. Preserving this land as a park will benefit not only the people of the surrounding communities, but the hundreds of military families who make their home at the Fort. The Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England, is committed to making the Navy a good steward of the environment and he understands the responsibilities associated with control of large parcels of government-owned land. This bill not only will ensure the preservation of the land, it also relieves the Navy of the responsibility for maintaining property that has no military value.

As urban sprawl and development pushes outward from our cities, our military bases are quickly becoming some of the last wide open, wild spaces. This encroachment pushes countless species onto these bases, making it even more important to conserve these critical ecosystems. I will continue working to find practical ways to protect and preserve the environment and critical habitats in the Great Lakes.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD ROLLERT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Donald Rollert, a veteran and dedicated civil servant who recently retired from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

Donald Rollert was born in Colorado, grew up in Kansas, and graduated from the Coast Guard Academy. During the Second World War, he served as an officer on an LST in the South Pacific and was subsequently stationed in Italy. Before returning to the United States and civilian life, Don married his wife Myriam in Trieste, Italy. He did post-graduate work at

Columbia University and worked for several companies as an engineer. While working at Mergenthaler Linotype Corporation in the 1960's, he assumed responsibility for developing one of the first electronic composition systems. When Don came to the Government Printing Office, he continued developing composition software. He is the author of the GPO's current composition program, Microcomp, which is producing the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, bills, hearings, and many other government publications including the Federal Register and related publications. As the author of Microcomp, Don Rollert is largely responsible for the GPO's success in the modern publishing world. His hard work, determination, and decision making over the years have made GPO a leader in modern publishing technologies.

A recently published book about the men and women who have served in WWII refers to those people as the "greatest generation." Don Rollert is and deserves to be a member of the greatest generation. Retiring at the age of 82, Don looks forward to spending more time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. He also looks forward to having more time for building models of early sailing ships, traveling, and working at his computer.

I join with his many colleagues and friends in wishing Don Rollert a long and happy retirement.

IN MEMORY OF COL. AARON BANK

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I inform the House of the passing of Colonel (Retired) Aaron Bank earlier this month.

Colonel Bank, who was known as "the father of the United States Army's Special Forces" for his role in creating the unconventional warfare units that became known as the Green Berets, died of natural causes on April 1 at his home in Dana Point, CA. He was 101.

Colonel Bank, a native of New York City and fluent in both French and German, entered the Army in 1939. During World War II, he volunteered for the extremely hazardous duty of working behind enemy lines with the French Resistance and guerrilla forces as a member of the famous Jedburgh Teams. Often posing as civilians, he and his three-man team helped organize a guerrilla force of up to 2,000 men and women and led them on numerous hit-and-run missions throughout Nazi-occupied France.

Colonel Bank remained in the Army after the war and became an advocate for special operations units that could do the type of work carried out by the O.S.S. While serving with a combat unit in the Korean War in 1951, he was called back to Washington to work on the creation of guerrilla-style units within the United States Army. COL Bank's personal diligence was rewarded when the Army approved the special operations concept, and the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was subsequently activated on June 19, 1952, under his personal leadership.

Special Forces, who first gained prominence while serving in Vietnam with their distinctive